

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,
THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, AND THE
BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

SUBJECT: MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS

PURPOSE: As agreed to among the DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, the UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, the IMMIGRATION and NATURALIZATION SERVICE, and the Bureau of Consular Affairs, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishes a framework and foundation for multi-agency cooperative efforts aimed at improving U.S. Maritime security.

BACKGROUND: Complexity and ambiguity are hallmarks of today's national security environment. Transnational asymmetric threats employed by nations, small groups, or networks of individuals using legitimate activities, including commerce, are now likely sources of physical or economic harm to U.S. citizens.

Confronting this new class of threats is not a simple task – increased security at geographic borders often conflicts with our economic interests. The ultimate goal is a solution that improves the flow of legitimate commerce while enhancing security. In simple terms, the goal is to promote the good, such as facilitating the unimpeded movement of legitimate people and cargo, while stopping the bad, such as preventing weapons of mass destruction from entering the country. Achieving this goal requires a significant improvement in the management and analysis of information on possible threats and, more pointedly, improved inter-agency cooperative efforts.

Domain awareness is the effective knowledge of activities and elements that threaten the safety, security, or environment of the United States or its citizens. Today, the United States has much better information about what occurs at its aerospace and land-based borders than it does at its maritime borders. At present, U.S. Maritime Domain Awareness capabilities are limited. However, ongoing activities, agency operations, and existing databases already contain some of the resources and information needed to develop a much-improved maritime awareness capability. For example, the U.S. Customs Service has an information system that mines various databases, including cargo movement, in order to investigate trade crimes. The Coast Guard collects information from a variety of sources, including port arrival notices, aircraft surveillance, at-sea boardings, marine safety inspections, state registrations, and commercial sources to enforce laws and safety regulations. Naval and Coast Guard Intelligence have significant capabilities in vessel tracking. The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the

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Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State have significant information on the movement of people across U.S. borders. However, no single framework exists to effectively look at threats across the broad spectrum of issues. What is necessary is the establishment of an organizational structure with the connectivity to create a virtual national data repository with the supporting analytical and communications capabilities to develop effective maritime awareness and coordinate appropriate responses.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVE: The undersigned agencies agree that an integral element of Homeland Security is the protection of the U.S. maritime borders and the Marine Transportation System from a variety of threats ranging from terrorists introducing a weapon of mass destruction, to port closures due to maritime accidents, to environmental threats. The agencies further agree that the concept of Maritime Domain Awareness is an important step in the process and that this can only be achieved by extensive inter-agency cooperation. This cooperation will manifest itself in a maritime fusion center that draws on the expertise and data mining capabilities of the various agencies. The Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center, which is collocated at the National Maritime Intelligence Center in Suitland MD, provides the framework for additional agency participation and will provide the necessary synergy for data sharing and cooperative analysis of maritime threats to Homeland Security. This center will also facilitate rapid dissemination to appropriate law enforcement agencies once a threat is detected.

ACTION: The agencies agree to establish and participate in an interagency sub-working group under the auspices of the Defense Policy Interagency Working Group. This sub-working group will be known as the National Maritime Security Coordinating Committee, and will be comprised of members from the agencies at the Deputy Assistant Secretary level. Additional agencies will be included in the Council as necessary. Nothing in this MOA commits any agency to share particular databases, or to make long term resource commitments.

Within two weeks of signing this MOA, the Committee will meet for the purpose of:

- Selecting co-chairs of the committee.
- Developing a concept paper on Maritime Domain Awareness that includes a roadmap for implementation. The concept paper, due within 30 days of the first meeting of the Committee, will lay out goals and a notional timeline for implementation, and will address organizational structure, operational response and management, IT/ADP/IRM issues, and program support and funding.

The Committee will oversee the development of the Maritime Domain Awareness initiatives and will advise the Defense Policy Interagency Working Group on the broad range of U. S. Maritime Security issues. The Committee may create subordinate working groups as necessary.

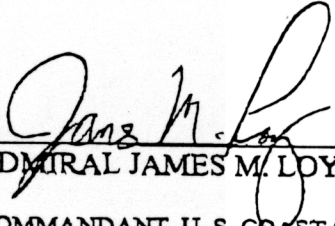
EFFECTIVE DATE/MODIFICATION/TERMINATION: The terms of this Agreement will become effective on the date the last party signs the Agreement. This Agreement may be

modified only upon the mutual written consent of all the parties. The terms of this Agreement, as modified with the consent of all parties, will remain in effect until all of the parties agree to terminate said Agreement. Any party upon (60) days written notice to the other parties may terminate its participation in the Agreement. In that event, the Agreement will continue in force for the other parties.


MR. J. WILLIAM LEONARD

JAN 12, 2001
date

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR SECURITY AND INFORMATION
OPERATIONS


ADMIRAL JAMES M. LOY

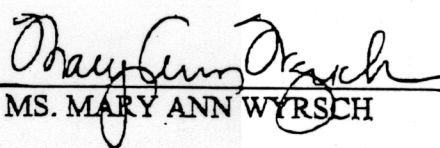
JAN 12, 2001
date

COMMANDANT, U. S. COAST GUARD


MR. GEORGE C. LANNON

JAN 12, 2001
date

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
VISA SERVICES, BUREAU OF CONSULAR
AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE


MS. MARY ANN WYRSCH

JAN 12, 2001
date

ACTING COMMISSIONER, IMMIGRATION
AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE